



Builth Rural District Council

Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1949

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health..T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.....Mr C.H.Wright, M.S.I.A.,
A.R.S.I.,
M.I.P.H.H.



Builth Rural District Council
Report of the Medical Officer of Health
1949.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the Sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Builth Rural District for the year 1949.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 2/50 (Wales).

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Statistical Summary for the year 1949.

Area.....109,271 acres.
Population (Census 1931).....4246.
Population (Estimated at Midsummer 1949).....3412.
Number of inhabited houses.....1041.

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 Pop.
Legitimate.	40	21	61	
Illegitimate	0	0	0	
	40	21	61	17.8

Still Births	0	0	0	0
--------------	---	---	---	---

Deaths from all causes.	22	15	37	10.8
-------------------------	----	----	----	------

Maternal Deaths.....Nil.

Deaths under one year;
.....1. Rate per 1000 live births.....16.

Deaths from special causes;
Infectious Disease.....Nil.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system...Nil.
Other tuberculous disease.....Nil.
Cancer.....Two.

Area.

The Builth Rural District is a large area situated in the northern part of the County of Breconshire and consists of almost one fifth of the whole county.

The district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the residents.

There are no large towns in the district.

Population. Census 1931.....4426.

1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
3895.	4343.	4103.	3901.	3869.	3753.	3661.	3576.	3467.	3412.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years and apply only to the civilian population. It would appear that the population has dropped considerably since the last census was taken and is continually dropping.

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 1041 giving an average number of 3.2 persons per house.

<u>Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1939.....			54.....	14.4.
1940.....	24.....	28.....	52.....	13.3.
1941.....	35.....	25.....	60.....	13.8.
1942.....	42.....	24.....	66.....	16.0.
1943.....	38.....	38.....	76.....	19.5.
1944.....	40.....	27.....	67.....	17.6.
1945.....	29.....	25.....	54.....	14.3.
1946.....	28.....	25.....	53.....	14.5.
1947.....	23.....	30.....	53.....	14.8.
1948.....	39.....	22.....	61.....	17.6.
1949.....	40.....	21.....	61.....	17.8.
England and Wales, 1949.....				16.7.

It will be observed that the birthrate for the year under review was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Deaths. After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents in the district is shown in the following table;

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			47.....	12.2.
1939.....			48.....	12.7.
1940.....		29.....	19.....	48.....
1941.....		34.....	25.....	59.....
1942.....		22.....	28.....	50.....
1943.....		27.....	17.....	44.....
1944.....		19.....	14.....	33.....
1945.....		27.....	13.....	40.....
1946.....		19.....	21.....	40.....
1947.....		18.....	26.....	44.....
1948.....		22.....	23.....	45.....
1949.....		22.....	15.....	37.....
England and Wales, 1949.....				11.7.

The deathrate for 1949 was therefore lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			3.....	0.7
1939.....			7.....	1.8.
1940.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	0.3.
1941.....	2.....	3.....	5.....	1.1.
1942.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	0.4.
1943.....	2.....	1.....	3.....	0.7.
1944.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1945.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	0.5.
1946.....	2.....	1.....	3.....	0.81.
1947.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1948.....	0.....	2.....	2.....	0.6.
1949.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
England and Wales, 1949.....				0.39.

Builth Rural District

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....	2	0	2	28.
1939.....	4	0	4	74.
1940.....	1	0	1	52.
1941.....	1	0	1	18.
1942.....	2	0	2	30.
1943.....	2	3	5	69.
1944.....	1	0	1	15.
1945.....	1	0	1	15.
1946.....	5	2	5	94.
1947.....	0	2	2	37.
1948.....	0	0	0	0.
1949.....	1	0	1	16.
England and Wales, 1949.....				32.

The infantile mortality rate for 1949 was lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males.....22. Females.....15.

<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Cancer Stomach.....	1	0
Cancer all other sites.....	0	1
Intracranial Vascular lesions.....	3	3
Heart Disease.....	9	6
Other diseases of circulatory system.....	0	1
Bronchitis.....	2	0
Ulcer stomach.....	1	0
Other digestive diseases.....	1	2
Congenital malformations.....	1	0
Suicide.....	1	0
Road traffic accidents.....	1	0
Other violent causes.....	1	0
All other causes.....	1	2

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Illegitimacy. The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to Builth Rural residents during 1949 amounted to Nil.

Maternal Mortality. There was no death in the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

Section 2, General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. There was no change in your officers during the year, Mr. C. H. Wright remaining as your Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth, Builth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for the County at Carmarthen whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. All the milk sampling was done by the National Milk Testing and Advisory Laboratory at Brecon.

Builth Rural District

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the new National Health Service Act, 1946, certain changes were operative in the arrangements existing for the conveyance of sick persons in the district. The County Council were responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St. John's Ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr Isolation Hospital conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to hospital.

Home Nursing. Under the new National Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations were whole time employees of the County Council and district nursing associations, as such, ceased to function.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, administered by the County Council, are held regularly at Park House, Park Road, Builth and the War Memorial Institute, Llanwrtyd. Ante natal clinics are also held in Builth and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects are also available.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Builth Hospital.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the County Council with Aberdare for beds at the Fedw Hir Hospital.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any disinfection required have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3. Maternity and Child Welfare.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, treatment for dental, eye and orthopaedic defects and also expectant mothers. Provision is also made for the supply of free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is the responsibility of the County Council.

Section 4. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies. The water supplies to the various parts of the district are derived from springs. Owing to the prolonged dry weather the supply of water has been unsatisfactory. The Council's supplies have been maintained sufficient for the needs of the premises supplied except when pumping difficulties have been met with as at Garth where the drive water for the ram has been insufficient to drive the pump and the supply had to be maintained by the use of the petrol pump. The private farm supplies have been unsatisfactory due to the drying up of the wells and springs.

Six samples of Council water were sampled during the year, one was reported as being satisfactory and 5 were unsatisfactory or not advised. Of the 17 samples from private sources 8 were satisfactory and 9 unsatisfactory.

No chemical examination or samples for plumbosolvency were taken during the year.

Builth Rural District

5/. The Council supplies were cleaned out and other steps taken to prevent contamination. The private supplies were subjected either to similar treatment or alternative supplies found.
Number of visits to water supplies.....193.

Erwood Supply.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house.....13.
Population thus supplied.....25.
No. of houses supplied by standpipes.....2.
Population thus supplied.....3.

Crickadern.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house.....13.
Population thus supplied.....32.

Gwenddwr.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house.....1.
Population thus supplied.....2.
In addition there is one school and one school house supplied direct to the premises.
No. of houses supplied by standpipe.....11.
Population thus supplied.....29.

Cilmerry.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house.....18.
Population thus supplied.....60.
No. of houses supplied by standpipe.....7.
Population thus supplied.....21.
In addition one school and one school house are supplied direct.

Cefnigorwydd.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house.....10.
Population thus supplied.....30.
No. of houses supplied by standpipe.....9.
Population thus supplied.....8.

Garth.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house.....8.
Population thus supplied.....22.
No. of houses supplied by standpipe.....12.
Population thus supplied.....35.

The above are all Council's supplies. The remainder of population have private supplies.

The Oaklands part of the parish of Llandewicwn is supplied from the Builth Urban supply, where an additional 22 houses were connected to the mains.

Drainage and Sewerage. There is no sewerage scheme to any part of the district except for the Oaklands area of the parish of Llandewicwn which is connected to the Builth Urban sewer. Schemes for the disposal of sewage in the villages of Llanwrthwl and Cilmery were being considered. 22 new houses were connected in the parish of Llandewicwn.

Number of drainage inspections by Sanitary Inspector.....80.
Number of drains tested.....44.

Adequate methods of sewage disposal are connected very closely with an increased supply of water and it is to be hoped that both these matters will receive attention in the near future.

Public Cleansing. Only one part of the district has a recognised system of refuse collection and that is the Oaklands part of the Llandewicwn parish from which refuse is collected once a fortnight by a local contractor.

A proper system of refuse collection for the whole of the district combined with the establishment of definite tipping sites remain a pressing need of the district.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr C.H. Wright. The following details give information relating to the work of the sanitary inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	28.
Number of complaints investigated.....	28.
Number of premises visited.....	28.
Number of notices served.....	14.
(a) For structural defects.....	10.
(b) For sanitary defects.....	4.

There has been great difficulty during the year in carrying out repairs owing to the limited supply of building materials. At present repair work is largely of a patching nature and it is hoped that a greater supply of material and labour will soon be available for the repair of domestic property to prevent decent property deteriorating.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature that they require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Common Lodging Houses. There is no common lodging house in the district.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by the sanitary inspector.....	3.
Number of notices served.....	5.

Factories.

Number of factories in the district.....	15.
Number of visits made.....	22.
Number of notices served.....	1.
Number of defects found.....	14.

Camping Sites. There is no recognised camping site in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

No premises were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year.

Rodent Control.

This work is performed by one of the Council's workmen.

Number of premises inspected.....	38.
Number found infested.....	13.
Number of premises treated.....	13.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

Section 5. Housing. During the year 22 houses were completed in the parish of Llandewicwm. Consideration was also given to the erection of houses in parishes of Llanwrthwl, Llanganton Penbualt, Crickadern, Rhosferig, Treflis, Llanynis, Maesmynis and Gwenddwr.

Number of house to house inspections made.....134.

Section 6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Food condemned.....221 lbs.

Milk.

Record of Inspections and Milk Testing,

Number of inspections of cowsheds and dairies.....16.

On Oct. 1st, the Milk & Dairies Act, 1944 came into operation. Under this important Act, the licensing and supervision of milk producers became the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Council is left with the licensing and control of distributors.

Up to 1st. Oct. milk sampling was continued under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme whilst from 1st. October to end of year samples were subjected to the methylene blue test at the Hereford Laboratory.

The following shows the results of samples taken:-

Category A.....	Milk of good keeping quality.....	78.
Category B.....	Milk of doubtful keeping quality.....	3.
Category C.....	Milk of poor keeping quality.....	19.
Under methylene blue test,	satisfactory samples.....	14.
" " " " " "	, unsatisfactory samples.....	4.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in your area and all the meat is supplied to the district from the Ministry of Food Slaughtering Point in the Colwyn Rural District.

Ice Cream Premises. There are no retailers of ice cream in the district.

Section 7. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following number of cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year;

Scarlet Fever.....	1 case.
Whooping Cough.....	36 cases.
Erysipelas.....	1 case.
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1 case.
Acute Lobar Pneumonia.....	1 case.
Measles.....	7 cases.

No case was submitted to Hospital, all being isolated at home. None of the above cases proved fatal.

8/.

Builth Rural District

Under the new Health Act, all fees for the notification of infectious disease are now refunded by the County Council, provided that copies of notifications are received by the County Council.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years;

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....	12.
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....	1.
Number of deaths during the year.....	0.
Number of cases removed as recovered.....	0.
Number of cases removed as left the district.....	0.
Number of cases left on register at the end of the year.....	13.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below;

<u>1940.</u>	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1942.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1946.</u>	<u>1947.</u>	<u>1948.</u>	<u>1949.</u>
1.	1.	2.	0.	2.	3.	4.	1.	8.	1.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

Facilities for immunisation are available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

No case of diphtheria occurred in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health